

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 99-1

Held

Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in H-769

Present: Dr. N. Esmail (Chair); Dr. R. Bhat; Ms. C. Chan; Dr. B.C. Desai;
Dr. D.J. Ford; Dr. W. Ghaly; Dr. J.C. Giguère; Dr. G.J. Gouw;
Dr. G. Grahne; Dr. F. Haghighat; Dr. A.M. Hanna; Ms. L. Harris;
Dr. J.F. Hayes; Dr. V.S. Hoa; Dr. J. Jans; Dr. K. Khorasani; Dr. H.F. Li;
Dr. O. Moselhi; Dr. J. Opatrny; Ms. C. Paradisis (Secretary);
Dr. E.I. Plotkin; Dr. H.B. Poorooshab; Dr. A. S. Ramamurthy;
Ms. I. Sequeira; Dr. J. Svoboda; Dr. C.W. Trueman; Ms. J. Zhou.

Regrets: Dr. T. Fancott; Mr. B. Torab

Observers: Prof. M. Silas, Ms. E. Pankovitch

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 99-01-1 The agenda was adopted with the addition of Closed Session item -
Honorary Degree. (C. Giguère, R. Bhat)

Vote: Carried unanimously

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 99-01-2 The Minutes of Meeting 98-08 (December 4, 1998) were
adopted with the following modifications:
Item 5: Change wording in the first paragraph from *Guidelines for the
Ph.D.* to *Structure of Ph.D. Program* and substitute the word *informed of*
on the second line to *sensitized*. (F. Haghighat, V.S. Hoa)

Vote: Carried unanimously

3.

Chair's Remarks

The Chair proposed for forgo his usual remarks due to the lengthy agenda. He invited questions from Council members. Dr. Grahne inquired as to the effects of the new Federal budget on Concordia. The Chair stated that the effects of this budget on Concordia were not clear. He reminded the Council that universities get their budgets from the Provincial Government and that during the last Provincial election, a promise was made to increase money given to universities by 40 million dollars over four years. The amount of money coming to Concordia from this would be minimal. However, the Chair stated that the new Minister of Education's approach to giving money for specific programs especially related to information technology might be good news for Concordia.

4.

Faculty Academic Plan (ECFC Doc. 99-1-1)

The Chair introduced the document above. He stated that it was his conviction that the Academic Plan for the Faculty must be dynamic and ready to incorporate changes. He stated that this Academic Plan included a Mission Statement for the Faculty and realizable immediate goals for the Faculty for such things as new options in graduate certificates based on continuous education, introduction of minimal software literacy for all engineering programs and emphasis on teamwork training.

Dr. Hayes expressed his conviction that Distance Education should be a component of this academic plan.

Dr. Giguère expressed his agreement with Dr. Hayes on this issue.

Dr. Poorooshab proposed to share this document with his department in order to obtain further feedback.

The Chair agreed that this document must be revised to include all new ideas. Council should approve the revised document in the near future.

Dr. Poorooshab proposed the following motion:

Motion
99-01-3

That the section entitled "Minimum Software Literacy in Engineering" of the document ECFC Doc. 99-1-1 be approved by the Council for immediate implementation. (H. Poorooshab, F. Haghighat)

Discussion ensued.

Vote: Carried with 1 abstention

Dr. Gouw suggested that this document be referred to the Faculty Curriculum Committees for review.

The Chair stated that he supported discussion in every forum however, this process must be expeditious. He reminded Council that this document would be reviewed regularly.

Motion 99-01-4 That document ECFC Doc. 99-1-1 (excluding paragraph "Minimum Software Literacy in Engineering") be considered by and referred to the Departments for further feedback and that this document be brought back to the next Faculty Council meeting for consideration. (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)

Vote: Carried with 1 abstention

5. **Ph.D. Program Guidelines (ECFC Doc. 99-1-2)**

Dr. Bhat presented the above document to Council for consideration. He also presented a document with comments from ECSGA. He explained that most comments put forth in ECSGA document could be incorporated into the above document. However, there was one particular item, which required serious consideration by the Council.

Motion 99-01-5 That document ECFC Doc. 99-1-2 be adopted by the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. (R. Bhat, O. Moselhi)

Dr. Bhat presented the ECSGA comments and explained the reasoning behind these comments. He also presented the Council with suggestions which, he felt would satisfy the concerns of the students.

Dr. Bhat reviewed the comments by ECSGA regarding conflict resolution between student and supervisor which, he felt presented some problems and on which he sought the Council's input.

The two problem areas were the inclusion of a facilitator, which meant involving a person from outside the Faculty and the concept of equal representation for students on the committee. Dr. Bhat stated that there was a desire to keep the conflict resolution within the Faculty and that equal representation for students was not acceptable to the Graduate Studies Committee.

The Chair inquired as to the functions of the committee and whether it had decision-making powers. He pointed out that if this committee did not have decision making power the number of student representatives was not an issue.

Discussion ensued.

The following points were raised:

- If the conflict was over an academic issue students should not be involved and if it was over personal issues there were mechanisms in place to deal with it.
- It was important to maintain the principle of transparency.
- It was pointed out that conflict issues were rarely purely academic and that it was important to have a process that was seen as fair and equitable.
- It was pointed out that there was a lack of an active supervisory committee within the faculty and as such the students had no forum to which to bring issue of conflict resolution.
- It was questioned whether a committee was necessary to deal with the issue. It was suggested that the Associate Dean be given the flexibility to form a committee with student representatives if the need arose.

Amendment (1) That document ECFC Doc. 99-1-2 be adopted with ECSGA comments except item number 6. (G.J. Gouw, O. Moselhi)

Amendment (2) That the proposed committee for conflict resolution (item # 6) be accepted in principle and that the composition of the above committee be determined by the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at the next meeting. (H. Poorooshab, C. Giguère)

Vote: Carried unanimously

6. **Vision for Graduate Studies and Research (ECFC Doc. 99-1-3)**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

7. **Faculty Council Composition Changes**

Motion 98-01-6 That document ECFC Do. 99-1-4 be adopted as modified.
(C. Giguère, R. Bhat)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion 99-01-7 That the term for student representatives in the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science be established as one year.
(C. Giguère, R. Bhat)

Vote: Carried unanimously

8. **Guideline for appointment of Industrial Chair (ECFC Doc. 99-1-5)**

The Chair introduced the above document originating from the Office of the Provost and gave a brief background to the evolution of this document. He pointed out that item #6 of this document invited each Faculty to establish a sub-set of principles and procedures. He stated that he would propose such a document to the Council for consideration at the next meeting.

9. **General Education Requirements (ECFC Doc. 99-1-6)**

The Chair introduced the above document. He explained that the university had adopted minimal education requirements for its students. This meant that students would have to be exposed to at least 12 credits taken from 4 out of 6 specified areas.

The Chair expressed his conviction that this was an interesting approach, which would place Concordia in the avant-garde of many universities. He stated that over the past 30 years, many academic programs had become too concentrated whereas Engineering had maintained a complimentary package of courses for its students.

The Chair stated that the general education requirements were not far off from the existing complimentary program and that the Faculty Curriculum Committee would assume the task of ascertaining that the complimentary package offered by Engineering conformed to the guidelines of this document. He informed the Council that the Faculty had one year to comply with this new policy.

He expressed his conviction that recent years have fortified the strong academic development of the Faculty and that the Faculty must share its dynamism and strength with the rest of the University community.

Dr. Gouw stated that the Curriculum Committee had already met to discuss the document and to see how it could be implemented. A document from the Curriculum Committee would be forthcoming within two weeks.

11. **Concordia Research Award**

The Chair stated that it is important to recognize honor brought to the Faculty. This year the Faculty has been honored by the selection of Dr. Wagdi Habashi as the Senior Research Fellow of Concordia for the year 1999-2000.

He stated that this was a very distinguished accomplishment. Dr. Habashi has been associated with Concordia since 1975. During this time he has built an unparalleled reputation in the field of Computational Fluid Dynamics and has enhanced the reputation of Concordia in North America and the world.

The Chair presented Dr. Habashi with an honorary certificate to commemorate this achievement.

Dr. Habashi thanked the Dean and the selection committee for this award. He stated that he is extremely proud of this award. He invited all members of the University to work towards the fulfillment of Concordia's potential. He expressed his conviction that Concordia has the best Engineering Faculty in the country. He thanked his associates in the CFD lab, former graduates and especially Captain Wagner of Air Canada. He thanked the faculty, his Chairman and expressed his pride in being a Concordia University professor.

12. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.